

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-15, and 17-20 are pending. Claims 1, 3-5, 10, 12-13, 17, and 19-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), claims 2, 6-7, 9, 11, 14-15, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and claims 8 and 16 are objected to. Claims 1, 12, and 17 are amended, and claims 8 and 16 are canceled. The rejections are respectfully traversed in light of the following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 8 and 16 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. Claims 8 and 16 depend only on independent claims 1 and 12, respectively. Accordingly, claims 1 and 12 have been amended to include the limitations of claims 8 and 16, respectively. Thus, claims 1 and 12 are now allowable, and claims 8 and 16 are canceled.

Claim 17 has been amended to recite "a heatable member positioned in said chamber in an optical path with said window, wherein said semiconductor substrate is disposed on said heatable member and wherein said heatable member is heated by said focused radiation energy". This limitation is not disclosed or taught in any of the cited references and has been indicated as allowable subject matter by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant believes claim 17 is now allowable for reasons similar to claims 1 and 12.

Claims 2-7 and 9-11 depend on claim 1 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 1. Claims 13-15 depend on claim 12 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 12. Claims 18-20 depend on claim 17 and are therefore allowable for at least the same reasons as claim 17.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-20.

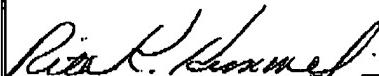
MCFARLEON, KYOKO, CHEN
& REED LLP
1762 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE
SUITE 226
SAN JOSE, CA 95110
(408) 752-7040
FAX (408) 392-9262

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes pending claims 1-7, 9-15, and 17-20 are allowable, and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at (949) 752-7040.

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Rita K. Kimmel

August 27, 2004

Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,



Tom Chen
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 42,406

MCFPERSON, KWOK CHEN
& REED LLP
1702 TECHNOLOGY DRIVE
SUITE 226
SAN JOSE, CA 95110
(408) 752-7040
FAX (408) 392-9262